

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W  
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P 031635Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4613

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5972

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF ABC STRINGER GEORGE ROTH (UK NATIONAL)

REF: SANTIAGO 5852, 5870, 5915

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME SEPT 1 TO DISCUSS ROTH CASE AND AVENUES OF ACTION STILL REMAINING FOR BRITISH EMBASSY TO TAKE IN LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO HAVE ROTH EXPULSION DECREE RESCINDED BY GOC.

2. I MENTIONED ACTION USG MIGHT TAKE IN SIMILAR CASE IF US CITIZEN INVOLVED, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. AMBASSADOR SEEMED INTERESTED AND CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD BE FILING AN "EXPRESSION OF CONCERN" WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ASKING FOR EXACT REASONS FOR EXPULSION, IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET GOC TO SHOW JUST CAUSE. IF THAT FAILS, BRITISH WILL BE ASKING THAT IF ROTH GOES HE NOT BE OFFICIALLY EXPELLED SO COULD SOME DAY RETURN TO CHILE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. ROTH PARENTS RESIDE IN CHILE AND HE IS ONLY SON.

3. MEANWHILE, WE WERE INFORMED BY BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY THIS MORNING THAT BRITISH NOTE HAS NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT WILL BE "IN DAY OR TWO." AFTER SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY, BRITISH EMBASSY CONVINCED THAT GOC WOULD NOT CHANGE MIND ON EXPULSION ORDER  
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BUT STILL HOPE ROTH MAY BE ALLOWED TO RETURN IN EMERGENCY.

4. LAST NIGHT ROTH TELEPHONED IO WEEKS AT HOME TO SAY GOODBYE AND TO THANK HIM, PAO BELL AND ME FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. WEEKS REPORTS THAT ROTH WAS VERY EMOTIONAL AS COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. ROTH PLEADED TO IO TO BELIEVE HIM AND TO CONVEY TO BELL AND MYSELF THAT "THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO JUSTIFICATION" FOR HIS EXPULSION, AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD LEND WHATEVER SUPPORT WE COULD TO BRITISH EMBASSY "PROTEST."

6. ROTH SAID HE WAS LEAVING ON 11:00 A.M. BRANIFF FLIGHT SEPT 3 TODAY FOR BUENOS AIRES. BRITISH CONSUL WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO AIRPORT. HE PLANS TO SPEND TWO WEEKS IN B.A. AND THEN ATTEMPT MAKE "NEW LIFE" FOR HIMSELF IN CARACAS. SANTIAGO AP BUREAU CHIEF, WITH HIGH LEVEL, INCLUDING MEDIA, CONNECTIONS IN CARACAS, TOLD PAO AND IO THAT HE BELIEVES HE CAN ARRANGE JOB FOR HIM THERE.

7. COMMENT: THUS ENDS SAD SAGE OF BRITISH JOURNALIST WHO HAS LOCAL PRESS COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS BRITISH EMBASSY AND OURSELVES BELIEVING THAT HIS EXPULSION IS UNJUSTIFIED. THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOC IN THIS CASE WORRIES US, SINCE NEXT CASE COULD BE AN AMERICAN. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF ROTH'S EXPULSION ARE EXPECTED TO HIT WIRE UPON BRANIFF'S DEPARTURE. POPPER

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